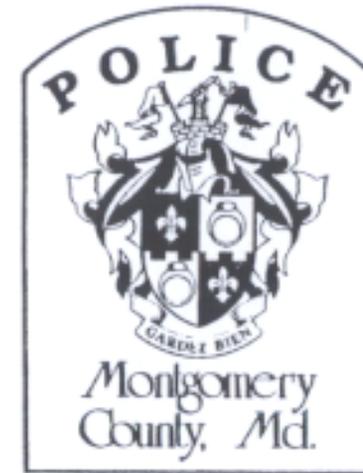


In Case of Burglary...



Montgomery County
Department of Police
2350 Research Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Non-Emergency: 279-8000

Emergency:

911

*Keeping Your Home
and Family Safe*

If there are sufficient investigative leads available, you will be contacted by an investigator who will be responsible for the case follow-up. If there are no leads, or few leads of investigatory value, you will be contacted by a member of our AmeriCorps team or a department volunteer. Any additional information that you provide to them will be immediately forwarded to the investigator who is responsible for your neighborhood.

Depending on the individual circumstance, an investigator will ensure:

- that all serialized property has been entered into a national police computer;
- that latent fingerprints or other physical evidence is analyzed; and
- that any potential witnesses are interviewed.

If your property is recovered, an investigator will arrange its return to you in a timely manner. If arrest/s are made in your case, the investigator will represent your interests and keep you informed as the case proceeds through the criminal justice system.

Your police department cannot combat crime alone. Your active participation is vital. Working together, we can make a difference.



Burglarized! Burglarized!

If you believe that your home has been burglarized, **DO NOT ENTER IT FOR ANY REASON**. If you have already entered your home and realize that someone may have been or might still be inside, leave immediately. Do your best to stay calm. Call the police from a neighbor's home or from the nearest accessible telephone. Make every attempt to maintain observation of your home, and specifically note any people and/or vehicles in the area. Obtain descriptions and license plate numbers when possible.

When returning home, look at your residence. Are the curtains as you left them? Has the position of the shades changed? Is the door ajar? Does anything look out of order, suspicious or disturbed? If you are at all uncomfortable, **DO NOT ENTER YOUR HOME**. The police would much rather initiate a search of your home and find nothing than have you face a potentially dangerous and risky situation.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING! You may destroy incriminating evidence that could assist in helping the police solve the burglary and recover your stolen property. The quicker a burglary is reported, the better the chance of the suspect being caught.



DO NOT CLEAN UP ANYTHING! Police officers do not worry about what kind of housekeeper you are. If the burglars have made a mess (i.e.: tipping houseplants, breaking glass, etc.) leave it there! Do not clean up until the investigating police officer or detective specifically tells you that it's okay to do so.

If you should accidentally confront a burglar, try to cooperate with any demands. Do not do anything that may cost you your life. Remember, material goods are replaceable. You are not.

Burglary Prevention

Your best defense against a burglar is to properly and adequately secure your home. The police department offers free security surveys which include recommendations to suit your individual needs. Additionally, it is important to engrave your valuables. Those which cannot easily be marked should be photographed in color. Have your jewelry appraised, for these recorded descriptions are the best. Keep a list of these items.

Help the police by becoming aware of your neighborhood. Get to know what is "normal" in your area. Know who has legitimate business there. Be able to recognize vehicles of your neighbors. If you observe anything that does not seem right to you, **CALL THE POLICE**. It is also a good idea to keep a pencil and paper handy to jot down license plate numbers of unfamiliar vehicles, descriptions of individuals, dates and times. Your observations may help solve a crime.

Burglary Follow-up

If, unfortunately, you do become the victim of a burglary, the police department will undertake a number of steps in an attempt to solve your case. The police report will be forwarded to the District Investigative Section that is charged with conducting the follow-up investigation of criminal activity in your community.